

What is claimed is:

1           1.     A method usable with a computer, comprising:  
2           in response to the computer being in a predetermined sleep state, coupling a load to  
3     conduct current from a supply voltage plane of the computer to ground, the supply voltage  
4     plane not receiving power from a power resource of the computer in response to the  
5     predetermined sleep state; and  
6           in response to the computer being in a predetermined state other than the  
7     predetermined sleep state, decoupling the load so that the load does not conduct current from  
8     the supply voltage plane to ground.

1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined state other than the  
2     predetermined sleep state comprises a higher power state than the predetermined sleep state.

3           3.     The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined state other than the  
4     predetermined sleep state comprises another sleep state.

5           4.     The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined sleep state comprises a  
6     state within a range of predetermined sleep states.

7           5.     The method of claim 4, wherein the range of predetermined sleep states  
8     comprises the lowest power sleep states of the computer.

1           6.     The method of claim 1, wherein the coupling controls a voltage level on the  
2     supply voltage plane produced by a powered peripheral.

1           7.     The method of claim 1, wherein the coupling comprises activating a switch to  
2     establish a current path between the supply voltage plane and ground.

1           8.     The method of claim 1, wherein the decoupling comprises deactivating a  
2     switch to remove a current path between the supply voltage and ground.

1           9.     The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           in response to the computer being in said predetermined state other than the  
3     predetermined sleep state, coupling the power resource to the supply voltage plane.

1           10.    The method of claim 1, wherein the power resource comprises a voltage  
2     regulator to furnish power to the supply voltage plane in response to the computer being in  
3     said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state.

1           11.    A computer comprising:  
2           a supply voltage plane;  
3           a power resource to provide power to the supply voltage plane;  
4           a load; and  
5           a circuit to:  
6                in response to the computer being in a predetermined sleep state, couple the  
7     load to conduct current from a supply voltage plane of the computer to ground, the supply  
8     voltage plane not receiving power from the power resource in response to the predetermined  
9     sleep state, and  
10           in response to the computer being in a predetermined state other than the  
11    predetermined sleep state, decouple the load so that the load does not conduct current from  
12    the supply voltage plane to ground.

1           12.    The computer of claim 11, wherein the circuit comprises:  
2           a switch.

1           13.    The computer of claim 11, wherein said predetermined state other than the  
2     predetermined sleep state comprises a higher power state than the predetermined sleep state.

1           14.    The computer of claim 11, wherein said predetermined state other than the  
2     predetermined sleep state comprises another sleep state.

1           15.    The computer of claim 11, wherein said predetermined sleep state comprises a  
2 state within a range of predetermined sleep states.

1           16.    The computer of claim 15, wherein the range of predetermined sleep states  
2 comprises the lowest power sleep states of the computer.

1           17.    The computer of claim 11, wherein the circuit couples the load to conduct  
2 current to control a voltage level on the supply voltage plane produced by a powered  
3 peripheral to the computer.

1           18.    The computer of claim 11, wherein the power resource comprises a voltage  
2 regulator to furnish power to the supply voltage plane in response to the computer being in  
3 said predetermined state other than the predetermined sleep state.

1           19.    A system comprising:

2 a computer comprising:

3 a supply voltage plane;

4 a power resource to provide power to the supply voltage plane;

5 a load; and

6 a circuit to:

7                   in response to the computer being in a predetermined sleep state,  
8 couple the load to conduct current from a supply voltage plane of the computer to ground, the  
9 supply voltage plane not receiving power from the power resource in response to the  
10 predetermined sleep state, and

11                   in response to the computer being in a predetermined state other than  
12 the predetermined sleep state, decouple the load so that the load does not conduct current  
13 from the supply voltage supply plane to ground; and

14 a powered peripheral coupled to the computer and capable of producing a back-driven  
15 voltage on the supply voltage plane.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the circuit comprises:  
2 a switch.

1 21. The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined state other than the  
2 predetermined sleep state comprises a higher power state than the predetermined sleep state.

1 22. The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined state other than the  
2 predetermined sleep state comprises another sleep state.

1 23. The system of claim 19, wherein said predetermined sleep state comprises a  
2 state within a range of predetermined sleep states.

1 24. The system of claim 19, wherein the range of predetermined sleep states  
2 comprises the lowest power sleep states of the computer.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the circuit couples the load to conduct  
2 current to control a level of the voltage produced by the powered peripheral.

1 26. The system of claim 19, wherein the power resource comprises a voltage  
2 regulator.